

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
FOR THE  
PROMOTION OF UNIFORMITY OF LEGISLATION  
IN THE UNITED STATES.

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# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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*To His Excellency the Governor and the Honorable Council of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

The undersigned commissioners, Hollis R. Bailey, Samuel Williston and Joseph F. O'Connell, appointed by the Governor under the provisions of chapter 381 of the Acts of 1914, acting in pursuance of the provisions of said law, submit the following annual report: —

### UNIFORM LAWS.

A brief history of the movement for uniformity of legislation by the different States of the United States is contained in the first annual report of the Board in December, 1909, printed as Public Document No. 86. The work began as early as 1882 in the American Bar Association. The first commissioners were appointed in Massachusetts in 1891. The following is a list of the acts providing for the appointment of such commissioners and for carrying on the work: —

Acts of 1891, chapter 405.  
Acts of 1893, chapter 311.  
Acts of 1897, chapter 233.  
Acts of 1902, chapter 494.  
Acts of 1902, chapter 501.  
Acts of 1904, chapter 415.

Acts of 1905, chapter 172.  
Acts of 1909, chapter 416.  
Acts of 1910, chapter 73.  
Acts of 1913, chapter 66.  
Acts of 1914, chapter 381.

The nature of the work is indicated by the title of the Board and is the promotion of uniformity of legislation in the United States on matters where uniformity is desirable.

All the States now have commissioners, and an annual conference is held which sits for about one week.

The following is a list of the uniform laws which have been approved by the conference and recommended for adoption in the different States, with the dates when the same were approved: —

1896, . . . . .	*Uniform negotiable instrument act.
1900, . . . . .	Uniform divorce act.
1901, . . . . .	Uniform insurance act.
1901, . . . . .	Uniform migratory divorce act.
1901, . . . . .	Uniform divorce procedure act.
1907, . . . . .	*Uniform sales act.
1907, . . . . .	*Uniform warehouse receipts act.
1909, . . . . .	*Uniform stock transfer act.
1909, . . . . .	*Uniform bills of lading act.
1910, . . . . .	*Uniform foreign wills act.
1910, . . . . .	*Uniform desertion act.
1911, . . . . .	*Uniform child labor act.
1911, . . . . .	Uniform marriage act.
1912, . . . . .	*Uniform marriage evasion act.
1914, . . . . .	Uniform partnership act.
1914, . . . . .	Uniform cold storage act.
1914, . . . . .	Uniform acknowledgment act.
1914, . . . . .	Uniform workmen's compensation act.

Of the foregoing, those which are starred have been enacted in Massachusetts. The uniform marriage act is substantially the same as the existing law in Massachusetts.

#### PRESENT BOARD.

The term of office of the members appointed under Acts of 1909, chapter 416, having expired in July, 1914, and a new act (chapter 381 of the Acts of 1914) having been passed providing for the appointment of a new Board, the Governor reappointed Samuel Williston and Hollis R. Bailey and added as a new member Joseph F. O'Connell, all to

serve for a term of not exceeding five years. The expenses of the Board are provided for, and a contribution of \$100 a year toward the expense of the conference is authorized.

#### CONFERENCE OF 1914.

The commissioners held their annual conference in Washington, D. C., in October, 1914.

The uniform partnership act, drafted by the committee on commercial law, was further considered and revised and was approved.

A considerable part of the time of the conference was given to the further consideration of the uniform corporation act, and considerable progress was made toward getting it into final shape.

The uniform workmen's compensation act, drafted by a special committee of which your commissioner, Hollis R. Bailey, was the chairman, was further considered and revised and was approved.

A uniform cold-storage act, and an act to make uniform the law of acknowledgments to deeds or other instruments taken outside the United States, were also perfected and approved.

Copies of all these acts may be found in our State Library.

Your commissioners received a suggestion from the office of the Attorney-General of this Commonwealth, asking them to take up with the commissioners from the various States the matter of securing a uniform law in reference to extradition of criminals, because of the annoyance which has been caused in this Commonwealth by reason of the lack of uniformity in laws pertaining to extradition. On motion of Mr. O'Connell, one of your commissioners, the conference voted unanimously to take this subject up and refer it to a proper committee, which was done, and the matter is now being considered by a special committee. Your commissioners hope at the next session such a law will be reported on that can be passed by all the States, thereby avoiding the scandal and delays which have resulted heretofore owing to the complexity and want of uniformity in

this very important feature of laws affecting the comity of States.

The following officers were elected by the conference:—

*President*, CHARLES THADDEUS TERRY, 100 Broadway, New York.

*Vice-President*, W. M. CROOK, Beaumont, Tex.

*Secretary*, GEORGE B. YOUNG, Newport, Vt.

*Treasurer*, THOMAS A. JENCKES, Providence, R. I.

*Chairman of Executive Committee*, EUGENE C. MASSIE, Richmond, Va.

#### UNIFORM CHILD LABOR LAW.

The demand for uniformity in laws relating to child labor has become so great that the Congress of the United States has been asked to enact a law which shall apply to children engaged in the production of goods which are to become articles of interstate or foreign commerce.

The bill is known as the Palmer-Owen child labor bill, and has the support of the national child labor committee. If enacted it will apply chiefly to mines and manufacturing establishments, and will leave a large field for the operation of State laws regulating the matter of child labor.

As sixteen States now have the eight-hour day for all children under sixteen years of age, there is good reason to believe that this provision in the Federal bill will meet with approval.

#### LEGISLATION RECOMMENDED.

Your Board recommends the enactment in 1915 of the uniform partnership act and the uniform act relating to the acknowledgment of deeds or other instruments outside the United States.

The law embodied in these acts is not very different from that now in force in Massachusetts. The adoption of these acts in Massachusetts will assist the commissioners in obtaining their enactment in other States.

Your Board does not think that the uniform workmen's compensation act should be adopted in Massachusetts this coming year, as the time is not ripe for any great change in the existing statutes relating to workmen's compensation. When the time comes for making any considerable change

your Board is of the opinion that the uniform workmen's compensation act will be found to be a natural and proper enlargement of the existing legislation upon this subject.

#### EXPENDITURES OF THE BOARD.

March 11, 1914, printing annual report, . . . . .	\$13 95
May 6, 1914, conference of commissioners, . . . . .	100 00
July 15, 1914, Hollis R. Bailey for traveling and other expenses, . . . . .	50 99
Nov. 18, 1914, Samuel Williston for traveling and other expenses, . . . . .	78 80
Nov. 18, 1914, Joseph F. O'Connell for traveling and other expenses, . . . . .	121 44
Nov. 18, 1914, Hollis R. Bailey for traveling and other expenses, . . . . .	85 10
Nov. 25, 1914, Hollis R. Bailey for traveling and other expenses, . . . . .	24 90
Total expenses for 1914, . . . . .	<hr/> \$475 18

NOTE. — The fifth annual report of the Board contained expenses to Dec. 31, 1913. The present report contains expenses since that date, including those of the Board as constituted under Acts of 1909, chapter 416, and of the Board as it now exists under Acts of 1914, chapter 381.

HOLLIS R. BAILEY.  
SAMUEL WILLISTON.  
JOSEPH F. O'CONNELL.